THE DISE OF THE PHYSICIAN FEMININE

Since the Time of the Blackwell Sisters, Little More Than Half a Century Ago, Their Sex Has Made Marvelous Progress in Medicine.

By Winnifred Harper Cooley

THY has public opinion been so hard on the woman doctor when she sought to fulfill her essentially womanly function of alleviating pain? Why have we frowned upon her because she desired to do this angelic work with skill and education, but never objected when she crudely labored over sick-beds or ignorantly acted as midwife? Why has she been barred out of medical schools, and yet welcomed as nurse; railed at as surgeon, but sought as servant? We would scarcely like to hint that it is because the skilled work of a physician is lucrative and the others not that men have stubbornly and violently tried to forbid

When the first woman in the United States, afterward "Dr." Elizabeth Blackwell, wanted to study medicine, not one school would admit her. Since that time, half a century ago, 25,000 women have been admitted to practice.

Elizabeth Blackwell (sister-in-law and sister of two remarkable pioneers, Antoinstte Brown Blackwell, the first woman minister, and Dr. Emily Blackwell, and sister of Henry Blackwell, who married Lucy Cone) applied to twelve colleges before the Geneva, Y. I. Medicai School finally admitted her as a student. This was in 1846. Today each year sees an average of about 2060 women medical students, scattered among the various colleges.

FOR RACE PROGRESS

Doctor Blackwell herself said in an address: "Among all the steps for the progress of the race. I consider the admission of women to the medical profession the most important of women to the medical profession the most important our fature women physicians will rejoice to help in the construction of that noble temple of medicine, by the construction of that noble temple of medicine, whose foundation-stone must be sympathetic their justice."

When she began to study medicine. Elizabeth Blackwell found that the women at her boarding house refused to speak to her, and those passing her touch her. She lived to series as not to louch her. She lived to series as not to louch her. She lived to series a specific and the New York Infirmary for Women and Children. The first was founded because of the simpossibility of women gaining entrance into the simpossibility of women gaining entrance into the simplished medical colleges, and coased to exist when simbilished medical colleges, and coased to exist when the simbilished medical colleges, and coased to exist when severicitions on the great established institutions were restrictions on the great established institutions were restricted as the women physicians, in spite of the exactions of the calling, interest themselves in all humanitarian movements and always are songletoned in alleviating the dealing in the fixed idea that women physicians, in spite of the own sex for special diseases of delicacy would impel thousands of women to patronize doctors of their own sex for special disease of delicacy would impel thousands of women to patroniz



il Becanice and the older not that men have increased and the older to the office of the control of the declared of the older than 6 to perform the change of the medical colleges that the change of the medical colleges have been batter of the original colleges that the change of the medical colleges have been batter of the original colleges that the change of the medical colleges have been batter of the original colleges have been been colleges and the original colleges have been been co

a practice nowadays than a man, because there are special needs for her—the work for women and children. I confess there is a younger set of men that opposes women physicians; but I believe they are actuated by discouragement over the cutthroat competition of modern times, and so experience a kind of desperation. They do not accept the idea of the survival of the fittest and realize that women must compete also, and only those will succeed as physicians (either men or women) who are thoroughly qualified."

Dr. Sarah McNutt studied medicine at the Woman's Medical College of the New York Infirmary, receiving her degree in 1877. She served two years as interne in the college hospital; then visited Europe, studying the principal hospitals. For years she was an instructor in gynecology, and later was assistant to the chair of general surgery in the Woman's Medical College. Specializing on the diseases of women and children, she gradually achieved a national reputation.

When the New York Postgraduate Hospital was organized she became lecturer out diseases of children. Strange as it may seem, at that there was not in all New York a single ward in all how York a single ward in all how York a single ward in the hore was not in all New York as single ward in the interest was not in all New York as single ward in the interest of meningeal hemorrhage, which resulted from injury to the brain during birth, and she presented this discovery in a paper before the American Neurological Society upon her admission to that body in 1884.

HOSPITAL FOR BABIES



"for you would hear people argue about it. We only get those who come to us voluntarily because they believe in us, and the scoffers are too polite to actually assail us to our face. Anyway, my life has been filled with helpful companions."

Married women. Doctor McNutt believes, from observation, can carry on their profession as doctors extremely well. There is much office practice, and frequently women doctors marry man physicians, so that the practice can be divided as seems most appropriate. Several well-known young physicians new are carrying on their own excellent humanitarian practices, yet are happily married. Doctor Behringer has a baby, but still lectures on materia medica and directs the girls gymnasium at Cornell University.

A prominent woman physician of Boston declares to me that women now are so well established in and, therefore, no especial reason of discussing their carreer any more than that of the thousands of men doctors? In Boston there are still living some of those intropid ploneers who paved the way for the work of women in the greatest of all professions. These are, Dr. Augusta Bone, Dr. Emily Pope and the now wars.

women makes them especially successful. The field is unlimited in bacteriology, for they can spend time but no physical effort at the microscope. Obstetrics and the care of children always appeal to the medical woman. Thus, my Boston friend.

And now we come to the wonderful work for children being accomplished by the New York city department of health under the direction of a young woman, Dr. Josephine Baker. The reason a woman is at the head of the child hygiene department of greater New York is that she proved herself efficient in other positions. She was graduated in 1898, and in 1901 was appointed a medical inspector in the department of health, and in 1907 assistant to the commissioner. In 1909 she became director of the division of child hygiene, the first person to fill this position. This wonderful modern department demonstrates the first attempt by any municipality in America to place under one administrative head all municipal activities relating to the health of children. Its effort is to care for the health of children from birth to working age. For 1912 the appropriation is \$546,295. Dr. Josephine Baker is in charge of this work for the entire city. Under her are an assistant director, superintendent of nurses, five horough chiefs, a supervising inspector and a supervising nurse of the infants milk stations. On the division staff are 116 medical inspectors, 261 nurses, 55 assistants, 23 cleaners and an office staff of 35.

The activities of the division concern:



for the prevention of existing defects. Trained nurses form the connecting link between scientific knowledge and applied results in municipal health work. I feel that in the wonderful reduction in infant mortality that has taken place during the last year, and in other excellent results, too much credit cannot be given the actual workers. The nurse who labors in the division of child hygiene is performing a social service of the highest order, and most of them bring to this work the best they have to give of themselves and their interest."

What Dector Baker says of the rank and file of nurses surely may be said of her, the distinguished head of the department, whose time that genius are given to mothering a whole city in a way never dreamed of in that much-lauded past which knew not women doctors.

Don't Flaunt Red at Cattle or School Children.



FTFR a few thousand years of futile endeavor to comply with the excellent injunction, "Man, know thyself," we have come down lately, and modestly, to trying to know something about our children,

The most interesting of these mysteries of childhood that has had a partial solution of late applies to that previously unaccountable phase of boy existence where he can't be happy unless he is raising Cain in school.

and practice; but, in the main, they perceive, in the common abuse of colors in the schoolroom, some long unknown, subconscious incitements to mischer and disorder.

And there are whole statesful of schools where glar-

by existence where he can't be happy unless he is raising Cain in school.

There are old-fashioned, plain, hardheaded, if not hardhearted, teachers, who, remembering their own schooldays, explain it by the sheer cussedness of the young human animal. But recent specialists have subdivided the cussedness mixture into present high spirits, unpersonally foul school room. natural high spirits, unnaturally foul schoolroom air, defective eyesight, adenoids, bad heredity, malnutrition and such a splendid array of afflictions and misfortunes that it would almost incite a boy to take the thirty-third degree in unruliness for the sake of getting the reputation of having all of them at once. Then he would have Tom Sawyer's famous sore toe looking like a mere

splinter.

But none of these, it seems, adequately explains why whole classes of children get the habit of schoolroom riotousness. There is another long-suspected cause. And that is the colors they see

VERY ONE knows that it is dangerous to flaunt red at a bull. The bull doesn't like it, and, next thing you know, his head goes down and you go up, and it depends on where you land, and how, whether he gives you a chance ever to rise again. how, whether he gives you a chance ever to rise again. In two such large cities as Chicago and Philadelphia the principle has been recognized that children are as prone to be influenced by colors although they don't go quite as far as the bull in their excitement. The authorities of the two cities differ as to the details of theory

And there are whole statesful of schools where giar-ing colors are iaid on walls with a fercelty of taste that would delignt Fig islanders. This is just the way it was put by Chiengo's expert, Miss. Marie J. Hesse, of the Chicago school board, who was chairman of the school improvement committee for the Congress of Illinois Mothers. She said that describes the state of color affairs in Illinois and in Chicago itself. The discipline of the schools is all upset by horrible mixtures of pink, red and green that would need angels to look at them without being inclicted to the monkeyshines that set order at defiance and a teacher's authority at naught.

BRIGHT HUES STIMULATE

Red and pink—in fact, any colors other than dark blue and dark green—so stimulate the childish nerves that it becomes virtually impossible for a boy to refrain from kekings the fellow in front of him under cover of the desk, and the fellow in front of him under cover of the desk, and the fellow in front of him under cover of the desk, and the fellow in front of him under cover of the desk, and the fellow in front of him under cover of the desk, and the fellow in front of him under cover of the desk, and the fellow in front of him under cover of the desk, and the spittalls, in emulation of the famous and revered Three-Fingered Brown.

The well-known medical expert on schools, Dr. Walter S. Cornell, who is director of the division of medical research at the New Jersey School for the Feeble-Minded, as well as of medical inspection for the public schools of Philadelphia, thinks that very much of Miss Hesse's observations is correct, He is the author of the work, "Health and Medical Inspection of School Children," and is lecturer on child hygiene at the University of Pennsylvania; so his is the scientific view attained after research of the kind that embraces pretty nearly all of the modern studies concentrating on the more youthful portions belonging to the science of man's knowing himself.

"There is assuredly a difference in effects of colors on the emotions," Doctor Cornell sald, "On the general subject very much has been written, and the literature that applies to colors contains many curlous examples of theoretical-attempts to make colors serve practical use with the emotions. There was one superintendent of an insane asylum, in the middle west, who tried to

help the patients suffering from melancholia by coloring the walls with red. I have heard of one mill owner, on the other hand, who was said to have removed the red paper with which the walls had been covered, because it made the employes so lively they did not properly attend to their work. These are details in the general interest that has been taken in the subject of colors, as they can apply to human emotions. I would not say with what scientific accuracy they have been reported.

"But that color effects are appreciable is semething science does admit. It is known, for example, that after a short time violet rays become intolerable to most people. Miss Hesse is correct in her general estimate of the jarring influence, or the stimulating influence, colors can exert.

"But the utilization of any color in dark tones is another matter, when it comes to its introduction into help the patients suffering from melancholia by coloring

But the utilization of any color in dark tones is another matter, when it comes to its introduction into a schoolroom, however excellent may be its intrinsic value as a bue in relation to the eye and the nerves. The prime essential of any schoolroom is light, and value as a hue in relation to the eye and the nerves. The prime essential of any schoolroom is light, and wherever a dark color tone is employed the sacrifice of this essential illumination becomes too great to be advisable. Green is, without doubt, an admirable color for any purpose in which the long-continued use of the eyes is involved. But dark green, like dark blue, is prone to absorb so much of the priceless illumination the schoolroom needs that no institution can afford to indulge in it. The child must, above all else, see under conditions of the utmost facility; else it labors under a strain, a handicap, which no agency can nullify.

"The practice in the Philadelphia schools is to paint the walls, a light green and to tint the colling in buff, so as to throw down all the light that can be contributed from above. In the course of building up the public school system there remain some buildings presenting the problems of rooms which, for such purposes, are too dark even for the use of the light green that is favored because of its grateful, restful hue. It is the practice inere to paint walls as well as ceilings in the light preserving buff tint, so that the prime need of adequate illumination shall be satisfied."

"By the way, doctor," he was asked, "do we know any more about the colors we ought to use in our homes than so many school boards seem to employ in the schools?"

"It is a pity that we don't," was the significant snawer, "The use of colors that shall not be irritant to the eye and the emotions is a physiological law—a law of nature. We should make the color tints, in the homes we occupy, as nearly compliant with that law as we are learning to make the schollrooms.

So it is just possible that man's knowledge of himself may ultimately get some real help from his modern, modest attempt to know something about his children. And, then, what will become of the popular cermine.